

Middlesex/Union Counties ALB Infestation

An additional tree infested with the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB), was found in the City of Linden, Union County, on March 23, creating the need to expand the existing ALB quarantine zone in that area.

The quarantine zone will now be extended into parts of two new municipalities, Roselle Borough and the City of Elizabeth, joining the existing zone, which encompasses Linden, Rahway, Carteret and Woodbridge.

The infested horsechestnut tree found in the northern section of Linden was the first new detection since November 2005. It was removed on Wednesday, March 29. The tree had approximately 20 fresh egg sites on it, but no exit holes, indicating that no adult beetles had emerged from the tree.

Work in the two new municipalities will consist of both ground and tree-climbing surveys to determine if any additional infested trees exist within a 1¼ -mile radius of the one found in northern Linden. Some high-risk host trees also will be treated with imidacloprid, an insecticide that can prevent the beetle from infesting a tree.

Members of the ALB Cooperative Eradication Team met with Elizabeth and Roselle Borough officials on Wednesday, March 29, to discuss the work that will be done in those towns.

As of March 30, crews have removed 528 infested trees, including the one new find, and 15,663 high-risk host trees in the Middlesex/Union infestation. The Department of Agriculture has worked cooperatively with the United States Department of Agriculture in the survey and removal work in both the Middlesex/Union counties infestation area and the earlier Jersey City/Hoboken area. In both areas, the NJDA has worked with the Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Forestry Service to replace trees in residential areas and parks.

In three years' worth of surveys since the infestation in Jersey City/Hoboken was addressed, there have been no additional beetles detected there.

To date, 433 trees have been replaced in the Jersey City infestation area and 2,112 have been replaced in the Middlesex/Union infestation area. The replacement trees are all species that the ALB will not infest.